1	2	3	4
1983-84	38.80	1983	1864
1984-85	41.50	1984	2105
1985-86	44.00	1985	2089
1986-87	46.10	1986	1940
1987-88	46.70	1987	1949
1988-89	48.40	1988	1774
1989-90	51.40	1989	2208
1990-91	53.90	1990	1408
1991-92	55.70	1991	1359
1992-93	58.00	1992	1520
1993-94 (P)	60.60	1993	1618
1994-95 (P)	64.00	1994	1324
		1995	1320

P — Provisional.

Production of Sugar

*100. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work pertaining to production of sugar in the sugarcane crushing year 1996-97 has been completed;

(b) if so, the total quantity of sugar produced till June, 1997 as compared to the production made in 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for the difference in the production of sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated extent of loss to be incurred by the sugarcane producers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The sugarcane crushing season starts from 1st October, and ends on 30th September. There are some sugar factories which are still under operation.

(b) The production of sugar during the current 1996-97 season (Upto 30th June) was 127.61 lakh tonnes as against 160.42 lakhs tonnes on the corresponding date during the 1995-96 season.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for lower production of sugar in the 1996-97 season, were:—

(i) marginal decrease in acreage under sugarcane;

(ii) significant shortfall in productivity of sugarcane particularly in Maharashtra;

(iii) late start of crushing, particularly in UP; and

(iv) diversion of sugarcane to khandsari and gur manufacture in the early part of the sugar season, particularly in UP.

The return to the sugarcane farmer depends on a variety of parameters, such as, productivity level of the sugarcane cultivated; price realisation, particularly in the khandsari and gur industry, where the price is not controlled; liquidity position of sugar mills and their corresponding capacity to make timely payments.

In view of the fact that the return to the farmer depends on various factors, it would not be relevant to relate the return to the aggregate production of sugar in a particular year.

[English]

Prices of Drugs

905. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to slash the prices of some bulk drugs which are being sold at much higher prices than their notified rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?